

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling usage of a portable digital device having at least one of an audio recording function and ~~or~~ an image data recording function, the method including:

monitoring a geographical location of the portable digital device;
comparing the geographical location of the portable digital device with a specific geographic region; and

inhibiting operation of said digital device upon receipt of a first inhibiting signal transmitted by another portable digital device in the specific geographic region when said portable digital device is located in [[a]] said specific geographic region.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~wherein at least one fixed location security station and at least one other portable digital device transmits an~~ further comprising receiving a second inhibiting signal having a transmission intermittently originating from a fixed location security station in the specific geographic region, and disabling at least one of the audio and ~~or~~ image data recording function of the portable digital device is disabled on in response to receipt of the first or second inhibiting signal.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said portable digital device is configured so that when said device is outside the specific geographic region, ~~the function is restored~~ said at least one of the audio and image data recording function is functional.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein at least one portable device is used as a repeater to broaden coverage of the second inhibiting signal transmitted by ~~at least one~~ said fixed location security station[s].

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~further including steps of:~~

————— ~~monitoring the geographic region of the portable digital device;~~

~~comparing the monitored region with a specific geographical region; and~~
wherein the inhibiting includes inhibiting operation of said at least one of said audio recording and image data recording function of said portable digital device when said portable digital device is in the specific geographic region.

6 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein the geographic region of the device is monitored by a navigation module selected from the group: GPS, GSM, GPRS, MA, UTMS and 3G.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein the geographic location of the device is monitored by triangulation of signals from at least two cellular base stations.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further including storing data relating to said device being detected as being present in the specific geographic region.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said ~~function operation~~ is inhibited for a predetermined period of time before the ~~function operation~~ can be enabled again.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the device has a memory and wherein the method ~~includes steps of~~ further comprises:
modifying the memory of the device to indicate that the ~~inhibition~~ inhibiting operation has occurred, and
checking whether the memory has been modified to indicate that the ~~inhibition~~ inhibiting operation has occurred before allowing access to the data recording function.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein the ~~inhibition operation~~ first inhibiting signal is communicated to received at the portable digital device by ~~means of a signal transmitted using a communication scheme transmitting over~~ at least one

radio frequency, the communication scheme selected from the group supported by GSM, GPRS, 3G, I- Mode, UTMS, Ultrawideband (UWB) wireless data standard and/or CDMA.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 11, wherein at least one frequency used to transmit the first inhibiting signal is changed at intervals to improve security.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~inhibition operation~~ first inhibiting signal is communicated to the portable digital device ~~by means of a signal transmitted~~ in the form of ~~one of~~ an audio signal or a signal transmitted at an optical frequency.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further including ~~a step of~~ installing usage control code on the device for performing the control of usage of the device.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~Claim~~ claim 14, wherein the usage control code is installed in a memory within the device.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further including ~~a step of~~ modifying code within the device relating to the at least one of an audio recording function and an image data recording function and preventing said code from being executed by the device.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further including ~~steps of~~:

detecting disconnection of the device from a communications network, and
preventing one of modifying a normal store operation and a normal transmission operation relating to captured data upon detecting the device has been disconnected from the communications network ~~said disconnection~~.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further including ~~steps of~~:

detecting an attempted operation of said data recording function when said portable digital device is located in the specific geographic region, and
preventing a normal store operation relating to data captured by the data recording function ~~the captured data~~.

19. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 17 ~~or 18~~, further including ~~a step of~~ deleting the captured data from the device.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 17, further including ~~a step of~~ transmitting the captured data relating to the device to a security entity.

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 17, further including ~~a step of~~ broadcasting a source-identifying signal to the specific geographical region.

22. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~Claim~~ claim 21, wherein the source-identifying signal comprises ~~one of~~ an audio tone or a series of optical signals.

23. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~Claim~~ claim 21 ~~or 22~~, further including ~~steps of~~ checking if data transmitted over a network includes a recording of the source-identifying signal, and transmitting the data to a security entity instead of ~~its~~ an intended recipient.

24. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein a security station is fitted on board a vehicle, said security station broadcasting/transmitting an inhibiting or disabling signal intermittently in the specific geographic region ~~on board the vehicle~~, and at least one function of the portable digital device being disabled on receipt of the signal.

25. Canceled.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling transmission of data over a communications network, the method comprising ~~steps of:~~
~~broadcasting a source-identifying signal to a specific geographical region;~~
detecting an attempted transmission of data including ~~the~~ a source -identifying signal broadcast by a portable digital device over the network, and
preventing the attempted transmission of data including the source-identifying signal when said portable digital device is located in a specific geographic region.

27. Canceled.

28. Canceled.

29. (Currently Amended) A portable digital device including:
~~one of means for recording at least one of audio recording or imaging and~~
~~video; and, comprising:~~
[[a]] means for inhibiting operation of said ~~device~~ recording means when said device receives an inhibiting signal from another portable digital device indicating that said portable digital device is located in a predetermined geographic region.

30. (Currently Amended) A communication system including:
a security monitoring station that transmits a first inhibiting signal in a specific geographic region; and
~~one or more~~ at least one portable digital devices according to Claim 2 device having
at least one of an audio recording function and an image data recording function; and
another portable digital device in the specific geographic region that transmits a
second inhibiting signal in said specific geographic region,
wherein when said at least one portable digital device is located in said specific
geographic region said at least one of the audio and image data recording function of said at
least one portable digital device is inhibited upon receipt of said first or second inhibiting
signal.

31. Canceled.

32. Canceled.

33. (Currently Amended) A method for capturing security information relating to a portable digital device which includes an imaging function, said method comprising enabling operation of said imaging function in response to an interrogation or enabling signal from a central station and returning an image to said central station.

34. Canceled.

35. (Currently Amended) A computer ~~program on a computer~~ readable medium encoded with computer executable instructions for controlling a portable digital device including the function of recording at least one of audio and visual imaging data, said ~~program~~ instructions comprising:

computer executable instructions for determining when said portable digital device is located in a predetermined geographic region; and

computer executable instructions for inhibiting operation of said audio recording/imaging device when said device receives an inhibiting signal transmitted by another portable digital device that is located in said predetermined geographic region.

36. Canceled.